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HOW TO READ A BILL

Compliments of SENATOR JEFF DENHAM

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AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY JANUARY 15, 2001
AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY JANUARY 5, 2001

SENATE BILL

No. 1693

Introduced by Senators Smith and Doe
(Coauthors: Senators Jones and Black)
(Coauthors: Assemblymembers Wright and Thomas)

July 6, 2000

An act to add Part 9 (commencing with Section 53150) to Division 31 of the Health and Safety Code, relating to financing a housing program by providing the funds necessary therefore through the issuance and sale of bonds of the State of California and by providing for the handling and disposition of those funds, and declaring the urgency thereof, to take effect immediately.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SB 1693, as amended, Smith. Housing *and Homeless* Bond Act of 2001.
Under existing law, there are various programs providing state assistance for housing.

This bill would enact the Housing *and Homeless* bond Act of 2001 which, if adopted, would authorize for purposes of financing a housing program, as defined in SB 1692 of the 2000-2001 Regular Session, the issuance, pursuant to the State General Obligation Bond Law, of bonds in the amount of \$850,000,000.

The bill would provide for submission of the bond act to the voters at a statewide election to be held on June 7, 2001.

The bill would declare that it is to take effect immediately as an urgency statute.

Vote: 2/3. Appropriations: no. Fiscal committee: yes. State-mandated local program: no.

The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Part 9 (commencing with Section 53150) is
2 added to Division 31 of the Health and Safety Code, to read:

3
4 PART 9. HOUSING AND HOMELESS BOND ACT OF 2001

5
6 CHAPTER 1. GENERAL PROVISIONS

Date noted
each time bill
is amended.

Bills are
introduced in
sequential number
in each house.

Date introduced.

Code section
being added or
amended.

Bills which make
an appropriation
or affect state
spending must
go to a fiscal
committee.

Text of the bill.

Indicates house
of origin.

Authors
and co-authors
listed here.

Legislative
Counsel drafts all
legislation and
writes a summary.

Most bills require
a majority vote.
A measure with an
appropriation or
which takes effect
immediately
requires a 2/3 vote
by each house.

This particular bill's actual language will be part of the California Health and Safety Code once it is enacted into law. The rest of the bill language is on subsequent pages.

TOOLS OF EFFECTIVE CITIZEN ADVOCACY

FIND OUT ABOUT ISSUES OR LEGISLATION IMPORTANT TO YOU

Probably the best source is the media. Newspapers, radio and television all report on legislation of concern to large numbers of Californians. If you are interested in special legislation, most organizations involved in particular issue areas publish newsletters with current data on issues affecting that interest group. Many education, health and environmental organizations, for example, publish monthly newsletters. Many of these public interest groups have advocated in the Capitol and have access to the most up-to-date information. In addition, my district office staff can help you track down legislation that you've heard about. We can provide you with copies of bills, or you can write directly to the Legislative Bill Room, State Capitol, Sacramento 95814. They will provide you with one copy each of up to 100 bills free of charge.

STAY CURRENT – BILLS ARE OFTEN AMENDED

Again, newsletters and the media can be very helpful. There are also official legislative publications found in public libraries and my district office, and available online through the State Senate's web site at www.sen.ca.gov.

Senate or Assembly	<i>Daily File</i> – printed each day with the agenda and bills set for hearing.
Senate or Assembly	<i>Weekly History</i> – with daily supplements indicating the status of each piece of legislation.
Senate or Assembly	<i>Daily Journal</i> – the official record of each day's proceedings.
Senate and Assembly	<i>Legislative Index</i> – the complete listing by subject of all bills introduced.

Call my district office to get the status of legislation. Also, please feel free to come in at any time and use all of the resources available.

COMMUNICATE WITH YOUR LEGISLATOR

Letters are extremely effective. Give me, or any legislator, all of the reasons you support or oppose particular legislation. Be sure to include your name and address so I can respond. Mail letters to either my Capitol or district office. Personal visits can also be valuable. Telegrams, postcards, petitions, phone calls and personal letters are all helpful, but remember that I like to know *why* you support or oppose a particular measure.

WHEN TO CONTACT YOUR LEGISLATOR

Each bill is heard a minimum of four times before passing the legislature – in policy committees and on the floor of each house. There is ample time to let your legislators know your feelings.

TYPES OF LEGISLATION

SB / AB (Senate/Assembly Bill): most bills require a majority vote. If there is fiscal impact, they require a two-thirds vote.

SCA / ACA (Senate/Assembly Constitutional Amendment): require a two-thirds vote of the Legislature and a vote by the people of California.

SCR / ACR (Senate/Assembly Concurrent Resolution): relate to general matters of concern to the Legislature.

SJR / AJR (Senate/Assembly Joint Resolution): convey to the federal government opinions of the California Legislature.

House Resolution: relate to matters of concern to one particular house.